

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Alabama Department of Public Safety

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### **TROOPERS PLAN HOLIDAY ENFORCEMENT**

#### ***Ask Motorists to Buckle Up, Drive Safely During Thanksgiving***

MONTGOMERY – The Thanksgiving holidays traditionally mean heavy traffic on Alabama's roadways, and all available state troopers will be on duty to promote safe travel during the period, according to Col. W.M. Coppage, Department of Public Safety director.

Coppage said federal grant funds would provide for extra-duty patrols throughout the state. A \$30,000 .08 BAC enforcement grant from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs and North Alabama Highway Safety Office will boost DUI enforcement activity in the Decatur/Huntsville and Quad Cities/Hamilton Trooper Posts beginning during the Thanksgiving period.

Coppage urged holiday travelers to drive safely and cautiously, buckling up on every trip. He said troopers would be especially watchful for impaired drivers during the period. "Throughout the holiday travel season troopers will emphasize DUI enforcement to help remove these most dangerous drivers from Alabama's roadways," Coppage said. Last year of the 17 traffic deaths that occurred during the 102-hour Thanksgiving travel period, at least three were alcohol related; nine of the wreck victims were not using safety belts.

The Alabama Department of Public Safety estimates that 16 people may be killed in traffic crashes in Alabama this year during the 102-hour holiday travel period that begins at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26, and ends at midnight Sunday, Nov. 30.

Along with law enforcement agencies statewide, troopers will target enforcement of safety belt and child restraint laws in conjunction with the Click It or Ticket safety belt enforcement campaign. They will strictly enforce Alabama's safety restraint laws during traffic stops and at checkpoints held statewide.

In addition to increased DUI and safety belt enforcement, troopers will work to curtail speeding, following too closely, improper passing and all other serious traffic violations during the Thanksgiving holidays. Their activities will include aerial speed limit enforcement and construction zone enforcement.

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*for more information contact:*

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Public Information/Education • P.O. Box 1511 • Montgomery AL 36102-1511

(334) 242-4445 • <http://www.dps.state.al.us/>